



PUMPKIN LONG DAY CARE CENTRE

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Newsletter – March 2017

Centre News

It has been raining a lot lately, our garden is looking very good now. Miss Elly and the children germinated some mango seeds two years ago and planted them. This year, we harvested some mango fruits from one of the trees. We cut and used the mango fruits to make some yummy jelly in the Jellyfish/Sunfish room. The Clownfish children also enjoyed these mangoes for their afternoon tea.



We harvested lots of passion fruits as well from our tree in the Jellyfish/Sunfish playground☺
Please do not hesitate to ask Miss Elly or Criselda for some of these yummy passion fruits.



Staff News

- Sadly, Miss Charlotte will be leaving us. She is going to America to pursue her new career. We wish her all the best on her new endeavour.
- Miss Tracey will be the new room leader in the Lionfish room. She has been working at Pumpkin for 4 years now and she has been in the Early childhood sector for more than 28 years.
- Miss Maylene will be away from Wednesday, the 19th of April and will be back on Wednesday, the 03rd of May 2017.

April Calendar of Events

05th – Wednesday - Ram Navami – Hindu tradition, celebrate the birth of Lord Rama. The day involves visiting temples and telling stories.

07th – Friday – Walk to Work Day.

09th – Sunday – Mahavir Jayanti – Jain, celebrates the birth of Mahavira.

09th – Sunday – Palm Sunday, Christian.

10th – 18th – Passover, Jewish Holiday.

11th – Tuesday – Hanuman Jayanti – Hindu tradition, this day celebrates Hanuman, who was an embodiment of Lord Rama. Devotion and selfless work are encouraged.

14th – Friday – Good Friday, Centre closed.

15th – Saturday – Holy Saturday.

17th – Sunday – Easter Sunday.

18th – Monday – Easter Monday, Centre Closed.

25th – Tuesday – Anzac Day.



Clownfish News



A big 'Hi" from Clownfish room! Well, We have had a very busy month as the children discovered new experiences and gained knowledge of the world they live in. Settling and forming close attachments with educators and peers has become a main focus for us this month as it is very important that the children feel safe and confident with their environment throughout their learning and development. As we see the children develop socially, working on building friendship with the other children in the group as well as showing various self-help skills, we can tell that the children have gained confidence,! That's great!

Belated birthday to Jamie and Anastasia 😊

Recycling fun



Earlier This month, one of the children shared one of his Peppa Pig's story about "recycling fun", this story was extended further when the children and Miss Stella spotted some recycling bin in our centre, we also had some fun learning and exploring some recyclable materials such as tissue rolls, bottles, tissue box, plastic cups and cardboard as well as listening to Miss Stella's simple demonstration of how to put rubbish in the bin. This experience created an awareness of the importance of recycling as well as keeping a clean and beautiful earth to live in.

All About Animal



As we get to know all children better, we have been observing their interest towards animals getting stronger day to day; they want to know more about the animal's images, sounds, and movement. The children are now able to sit for up to and over 10 minutes during group time, which usually is very long for nursery room, this interest is an amazing opportunity to work on their imaginative, language, and communication skill. Hence, we provided various activities that could further extend the learning and interest:

During group time, we have been including animal based stories for them to read, listen, and sing, some of the stories were brought by the children themselves. Where book has become the main source of their learning; started from recognizing animal's image, demonstrating animal's movement, and listening to animal's sounds.



Other than that, we also included art and craft activities, water play, finger puppets, and other fine motor activities to further extend the interest. In the middle of the month, the children were also encouraged to dress up as their favorite animals or bring in their favorite toy animal from home to be shared during group time. The children were proudly showing off what they had!



Towards the end of the month, the interest is still going on intensely, Miss Elly decided to build a hand made zoo miniature where the children can use animals for a pretend play, that can enhance their creativity and imaginative skill further! Thank you Miss Elly! We love it to the fullest.



March's Celebration

This month the children were also participating in two big celebrations “St Patrick’s day” and “Harmony Day”; the children were doing a hand painting to make a “shamrock” as it is one of the traditional symbol of this celebration that Irish people believe as a good luck symbols. Harmony day also reminded us of the importance of inclusiveness and cherishing cultural diversity in Australia; therefore we decided to do a combined exercise and group time with some of the starfish children and educators (pre-school).

Big thanks to all parents/families who have kindly supported many wonderful input throughout this month, surely this month we have received lots of family input that simplify our works in implementing the program and curriculum. Keep it up 😊

Parent reminder

- Our children are growing too fast, Miss Stella has spoken to some parents regarding this little transition for some children, please bring one single sized bed sheet and one blanket (as the weather is getting chillier these days).
- Please pack some form of nappy cream for the children in case of any nappy rash. This enables us to treat the rash before it becomes any worse or begins to leave your children in discomfort. (Only if you haven't done so)

Until next month,

Clownfish educators.

Jellyfish News



April Birthday Celebrants:

Eduardo- 4th

Rory- 16th

Another month has gone. We had a rainy first month of autumn, but we still got a lot of fun and exciting activities.

We started the month talking about autumn. We accessed the interest to see the autumn in Australia, how the colour of some trees changes from green to orange or yellow and brown.

We celebrated two events this month; St Patrick's Day on the 17th and Harmony Day on the 21st.



For St Patrick's Day, we decided to do some painting activity, and we thought green was the appropriate colour theme for our work. We also watched some video clips of the history about St Patrick. We learnt that St. Patrick's Day, also referred to as the feast of St. Patrick, is celebrated every 17th of March in remembrance of the first patron saint of Ireland, Saint Patrick. This celebration is both

religious and cultural and is, therefore, observed by the Irish, the Church of Ireland and the Catholic Church. This day's celebrations involve the wearing of green shamrocks, festivals and parades. On the day, we had a couple of children came wearing green.



'**Harmony Day** is held on March 21 in [Australia](#). Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity.'

It began in 1999, coinciding with the United Nations [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#) and each year, it is marked by people coming together and participating in local activities. The continuing message of harmony Day is 'Everyone Belongs'. It is about community participation, inclusiveness, celebrating diversity, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.'



To celebrate Harmony Day, we listened to various harmony songs, saying 'hello' and counting in various languages. We also looked at images of people around the world to see our differences in hair and skin colour, facial features and the way we dress up.

Learning about diversity was followed by hand printing activity to signify inclusiveness, unity and sense of belonging.

Almost the whole month of March, the children showed great interest in pretend/dramatic play. On the 16th, the children were seen sharing the prepared food to each other, as well as looking after the baby dolls.



On the 20th, the children chose to play with play dough. At first, they said they were going to make dinosaur, but they ended up making ice cream, cars, flowers and various shapes, using moulds. They were also seen rolling the dough and cutting them into small pieces.



After the play dough, the children continued playing in the home corner. Everyone helped in setting up the table for their breakfast, then one child was seen serving tea, while the other child served each one a bowl of soup. The children had shown their knowledge of food preparation and setting- up.



On the 22nd, we decided to give the children opportunity to prepare real food. We gave them toast and butter. They helped in setting up the plates on the table and each one had a



chance to spread the butter on the toast. Everyone had fun, enjoying the experience of preparing real food. They were asked to wait until everyone was finished spreading their toast. We then cut the toast while everyone

was waiting patiently for 'eating time.' "Hmm...yummy!" they were heard commenting, while enjoying their food.



To further extend their interest, on the 23rd, we made a mango jelly. Some of the children helped in stirring to dissolve all the jelly powder, while some helped in adding the fresh mango fruit which was harvested from our very own mango tree in the Clownfish garden. What a fun experience for everyone!

News Topic (April School Holiday)

We are not going to have specific news topic during April school holiday, but any family input about anything under the sun that matters to your child is highly regarded, for us to know more about your child's activities and development outside Pumpkin.

Toilet Training

Please let us know if your child has started with toilet training so we could work together.

Until next month,

Jellyfish/Sunfish educators

Lionfish News



During the month of March, the Lionfish children have been talking and learning about 'How to keep fit through Healthy Eating and Exercise'. The children have been bringing in photos of them doing their favourite physical activities on the weekends. These have included : going to the park, bike riding, swimming, dancing and gymnastics. We even made goggles using recycled egg cartons after talking with the children about swimming. The Educators have been providing challenging obstacle courses, games and physical activities for the children to participate in. We have also continued our 'Munch and Move' activities to reinforce the message of exercise and healthy eating.



On 8th March, Miss Charlotte set up a dancing area with music for the Lionfish to dance to. They were all immediately eager to have a dance, and suggested their favourite music (Trolls, Minions, Frozen, etc). Many of them recognised some of the songs Miss Charlotte put on and danced along. On 14th March, many Lionfish made healthy foods collage with Miss Charlotte. They flipped through some magazines and chose some healthy foods that they liked. Then they had a go at cutting, and Miss Charlotte also helped.



The Lionfish children have also shown a great interest in role play this month, confidently expressing their identity through dramatic play. They have used various resources as props to re-enact various scenarios. They have pretended to be Drs, different family members, ice cream sellers, monsters, robots and a variety of super heroes.



On the 24th, some of the girls role played outside with some Starfish friends. They pretended to put make up on each other.



The Starfish and Lionfish boys also role played together.. They both wore police hats and made police cars and helicopter out of the magnet connectors. They made siren noises too!



On the 14th, during outdoor play, the Lionfish children used their imaginations and were very creative with a variety of blocks and building resources. Some of the boys worked together, joining the large plastic blocks together to make a house. They then decided to change it, flattening it out and adding sides to it. Ben said, "We're making a car!" A few girls joined the group and sat in the car. "It's a plane, we're going up in the air!" they said. They continued adding pieces to the plane. When they had finished, they all sat inside. "We're going on a holiday...to Noosa!"



They continued enjoying their play on the car mat that they painted together last month. They usually ask for the long recycled tube to put their cars through and watched them come out the other end. They got very excited watching this.



On the 17th, we celebrated St Patrick's Day. The children dressed up in green, and learnt about St Patrick and what he stands for. During group time the Lion fish children found out that he came from Ireland, and that you wear green to celebrate spring time, as well as it bringing good luck for the future. To keep in the theme, the Lionfish decorated green shamrocks on the day as well.



This month, we have learnt about the letter 'd' and 'e', listening to Dippy Duck and Eddy Elephant's stories, naming things starting with these letters, practicing our sounds and even practicing writing these letters on the whiteboard.



Just a reminder: To put your child's name on their belongings. In particular, their bottles so that we can keep track of which one is theirs when they bring a new one into Pumpkin.



Farewell to Miss Charlotte who is leaving Pumpkin at the end of this month to travel around the US. Miss Tracey will be our new room leader in the Lionfish room ☺

Until next month,

Lionfish Educators ☺

Starfish News

Starfish March Newsletter

The children's interest in numeracy continued this month. They experimented with different types of rulers, exploring 'Shapes' as they learned about 'Inches' and 'Centimetres'. Using

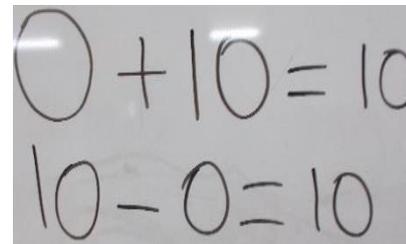
the straight edged ruler, the children helped in measuring theirs and their peers' heights and many were able to compare them to last year's height chart.

The children were then given the opportunity to have their silhouettes traced and using an array of coloured paints, decorate and present them in our classroom. The children also used and applied their new found knowledge to create a shape collage using the various rulers, measuring their drawn shapes, stamping/writing the measurement on their shapes before cutting them out with safety scissors and sticking them down their on paper.

Starfish children then used the various sized measuring tapes to measure just about anything, which started their discovery of addition and subtraction. Furthering their own mathematical learning by familiarising themselves with the different symbols on the calculators and through learning relationships with their teachers.

The children have started counting to bigger numbers (such as 110!), have been teaching their peers how to count in their home language, including; Indonesian, Japanese, Spanish and Chinese. They have explored an abacus as well as practicing and familiarising themselves through tracing/free hand writing numbers. Increasing their recognition, verbal and written abilities, it has been wonderful to see their levels of interest in Numeracy.

Construction interest is often present and it has been observed to be even stronger this month. Starfish were introduced to the leveller, where they learned about 'balanced' and 'un-balanced' surfaces and watched the little bubbles move as they



enthusiastically used it to explore their environments surfaces and then measured them to aid their curiosities.



Building intricate and meaningful designed structures, the children have demonstrated their skills in fine-motor as they used the Natural and Man-made resources. Supporting and encouraging sustainable practices in our classroom, the children were also given recycled materials to construct with for which they made good use of as they furthered their imaginations and creativity. The children had the chance to try on 'Construction Apparel' brought in by a classmate and their teacher, as



they each had turns in putting on the Hard Hats, Safety Goggles, Ear-Muffs and Fluorescent Vest. With a deeper understanding of the importance of safety in and around the worksites the children used technology to further their knowledge of what a worksite looks like, types of vehicles used, building materials as well as learning about support beams.



A few children were role-playing with an Angry Bird, creating a



slingshot and discussing their interests in the construction games Angry Birds and Bad Piggies on their iPad. Extending on their interests and the topic, the class were given a chance to build, simulate and knock down their very own 'Angry Bird' towers using the sling-shots, figurines and wooden blocks. Maintaining safety and ensuring that they were not



standing in the way of their peers as they attempted to knock down the Bad Piggies, the children thoroughly enjoyed working alongside their peers to collaborate and create. Starfish learned that to construct, means to create and that the materials can vary depending on what is being made. Giving new meaning to playdoh, the children used loose resources to create all sorts of creatures as well as familiaring themselves with the hammer, nails and shapes as they explored the 'Tap-Tap' resources.



Starfish were involved in this years St.Patrick's Day Celebrations, as the children participated in a discussion about the Irish tradition, they'd decided that they wanted to create their very own 'Lucky Shamrocks'. Using real '3 leaf Clovers' from our garden and an example as references, different shades of Green paint for which they mixed themselves using tones and a little guidance from their teachers, the children were very proud of their efforts! The children were hands on during their cooking experience, where they continued the 'green' theme of St.Patrick's Day and made a light and dark batch of Playdoh. Starfish re-visited and transferred their numeracy knowledge using addition to double the ingredients in the recipe, before helping mix them in and create their own Shamrocks, Self-Portraits, Aliens and even Monsters. Starfish children also got the chance to make their own 'Marble Maze', using paper plates, texters, sticky tap and coloured strips of paper.

Until next month, Cheers from Starfish Educators ☺